food, clothing and medical care etc. of people affected/evacuated.

No starvation death has been reported by any State Government/UT. A quantity of 893.46 lakh tonnes and 535.19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated by the Central Government to the State Governments/ UTs under various welfare schemes and TPDS during 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto September-October, 2003) respectively.

Buffer stock of foodgrains

999. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing buffer stocks of foodgrains with Government;

(b) whether after providing foodgrains to drought-hit States, the food-stocks are sufficient to meet the country's requirements;

(c) if so, whether in view of better monsoon and production of wheat and rice, Government have further decided to release the same to the exporters;

(d) whether fresh arrivals of stocks of foodgrains have reached; and

(e) if so, to what extent the present position of stocks of foodgrains is sufficient to meet the future demands in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The existing buffer stocks of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) against buffer norms of stocks during the current year is an under:

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Date	Stock	Buffer Norms
01.01.2003	482.02	168.00
01.04.2003	328.02	158.00
01.07.2003	351.68	243.00
01.10.2003	236.68	181.00

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Lifting of foodgrains from Central Pool stocks is continuing as before.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Procurement of paddy/rice during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2003-04 is in progress. It is estimated that the total procurement of rice would be around 20 million tonnes. As on 3.12.2003 the total procurement of rice was 90.62 lakh MT as compared to 86.43 lakh MT in the corresponding of last year. The stocks of wheat and rice available in Central Pool are enough to meet the requirement of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System and Welfare Schemes.

Sugar stocks with mills

†1000. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar mills in the country are showing more sugar stocks as compared to their actual stocks; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the States where more sugar stocks have been shown by the sugar mills alongwith the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) In order to ascertain the actual stock of sugar with the sugar mills inspections are carried out periodically. In addition, sugar factories are asked to send information on stocks after due verification by Central Excise Authorities from time to time. The variance in stock, if any, is duly corrected and the releases of levy and non-levy quota of sugar are made accordingly.

Restructuring of FACT

1001. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.